

WASHINGTON CRITIC

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RICHARD H. SYLVESTER, Editor.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 18, 1887.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AGAIN.

If the Senate Subcommittee on the District Appropriations bill are really in earnest in their alleged desire or intention to abolish the High School and cut down the salaries of teachers, the mischievous purpose should be nipped in the bud. We can but feel, however, that there is a grave misunderstanding on the part of the committee, and for that matter on the part of Congressmen generally, as to the real situation of affairs. Considering the long and bitter agitation of the school question, it is no wonder that Congressmen as well as citizens have become somewhat confused as to the real facts.

But one thing is very certain. The way to build up our school system is not to tear it down and start a new one. The educational interests of the District are not to be sacrificed to the higher grades of schools and at the same time to do away with the higher grades of teachers by reducing salaries as to discourage competent instructors from accepting positions. As to what is called the longevity pay system, it is not a pension establishment, as Senator Plumb is said to regard it, but nothing more than a creditable system of promotion by merit.

Whatever fault exists as to the want of proper accommodations for children of a primary grade, it attaches not to the citizens of the District who have been clamoring long and loudly for better facilities, but to the committee of Congress which have turned a deaf ear to their appeals, and now propose to mend a bad matter by making it infinitely worse.

In the name of all that is just and right let facilities be increased rather than diminished. Let the high grade schools, which are the colleges of the people, and which annually graduate large numbers of young men and women, well equipped for the duties of life, remain as they are—monuments to the honor of their founders and the pride of the National Capital. Let liberal pay be given to the accomplished instructors of these schools. They earn all they get, and more. Let immediate provision be made for new buildings, that not a child of school age shall be debarred from the opportunities of a good primary education, and all the additional teachers be employed that are necessary.

What is the matter of \$9,000 or \$10,000 for salaries to the great interests involved? What the matter of \$50,000, or \$100,000, if need be, for more school houses, if there are children to fill them? What the need of going through the process of passing bills for the protection of the morals of minors if their first and greatest protection—the common school—is to be neglected?

NOTES AND GOSSIP.

MAYOR HEWITT of New York expects to be called upon to resume his official duties by Monday next.

MR. ROSS H. WINSAN, who is now in Paris, has made five contributions of \$100 each this winter to the Baltimore poor fund.

REAL ESTATE is New York is said to be enjoying something of a boom just now, there being more buyers than sellers of desirable property.

ERNEST FIELD of the Chicago News says of Senator Campbell "that he could carry a high A and more liquor than any other senator in the country."

MR. HENRY WATSON was lunched last evening by the Queen City Club of Chicago. Mr. Watson was one of the guests; likewise Mr. Hale.

CERTAIN New York people are saying "Jesse" now instead of good old "Jesse" (died); reason why? Mrs. — says so, and she is worth just \$40,000,000.—Troy Times.

HUNTER GUEST—"How is this? I ordered a steak and a poached egg. I see the egg, but where is the steak?" Table attendant—"That's all right, sir. Do steak and eggs come with a poached egg?"

MARY ANDERSON says she will not marry until she leaves the stage, and she won't leave the stage until old age compels her. The chance of her becoming somebody's grandmother is not particularly hopeful.

Over 15,000 teachers are expected to be present at the meeting of the National Educational Association in Chicago, July 12, and the citizens of that place are raising \$7,000 for the entertainment of the crowd.

TESSY BARRON, son of the late President of Guatemala, is a student at West Point, and is a member of the corps of cadets.

THE PROHIBITIONISTS up about Connecticut, who seriously thought some time ago of urging P. T. Barnum as a Presidential candidate, are becoming a little shy of him now that he is inclined with the high-living crowd.

It is rumored that the Chicago Mail, Mr. Frank Hinton's paper, is about to change hands, the purchaser being Walter Blake, son of his father. Mr. Hinton said that he had no objection to the sale of his paper, but that negotiations were on foot for the purchase of the journal, but nothing definite had been reached.

"MUSTERED OUT." There's a lovely grave in Virginia. And a soldier's name is there. That's all that's left of him. He's mustered out.

There are graves in the "Old Dominion" where the brave men of the Civil War lie. Some of them are marked with a cross, and some with a flag. They are the graves of the brave men who fought for the Union.

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GENERAL AND CRITICAL.

THE FALLACY OF PROVERBS. There is a man and a woman, too, who are not so much together as apart.

How do we know they went down? They are there where they always go.

"The Devil always finds some work for idle hands to do."

The Devil always finds some work for idle hands to do.

And then he called the man up, and asked him what he did.

"I am an idle man," he replied.

The Devil scratched his head.

"I've nothing here for you to do," he said, beneath his breath.

And the man wandered about until he starved to death.

"This one is reported back from the committee."

A vigorous electric beam, accompanied by a vigorous electric beam, was going on a tour of inspection through the elegant, new quarters of the Jefferson Club last night, making various pertinent comments.

"Are there any bath-rooms?" remarked Mr. Reagan.

"That," was the profane and abrupt response, "don't you know this is a Democratic club?"

WATERBURY TO CLEVELAND.

Oh, then, inevitable!

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